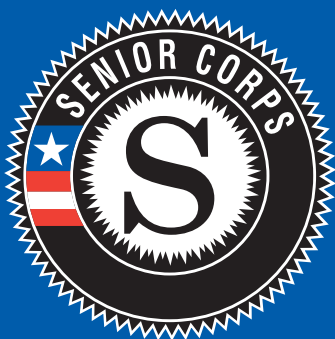


Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE 

presents the

2009 Spirit of Service Awards



Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer

Last Year's Winners:

Thelma King, Foster Grandparent Program

Thelma King-or "Granny King," as the children call her-is a retired registered nurse who supports inner-city youth at Jean Ribault High School's Exceptional Students Education Program in Jacksonville, Flor., which serves emotionally and academically challenged students. Granny King uses auditory, cognitive, and kinesthetic skill-building activities that help students with no linguistic ability learn to use their bodies to communicate. When asked how she communicates with these children, she says, "All kids understand the language of love." Granny King's success with these children has not only helped to raise their self-esteem but also has raised their graduation rates by 82 percent.

Joel Becker, RSVP

Joel Becker, a retired engineer, is an Adopt-A-Family volunteer in Hauppauge, N.Y., focusing on assisting families in need. During his service, he noticed that the families had one thing in common: None had computers in the home, so the kids were missing a valuable tool that could help them with their academic skills. He approached the RSVP of Suffolk County with a proposal to refurbish donated used computers and then install them in the homes of low-income families. That idea became the Community Computer Connections Program, sponsored by RSVP and managed by Becker. He works with the county's health and welfare council to ensure that the computers are received by families and individuals with the greatest need, and has recruited more than 30 other senior volunteers to help with the program.

Patricia Gratton, Senior Companion Program

As a Senior Companion in Grand Junction, Colo., Patricia Gratton has come to understand well the importance of being independent. A stroke left her with permanent physical disabilities, but her determination remained as powerful as before. She re-learned many basic tasks, including how to drive her specially equipped car. She is now back on duty as a Senior Companion, serving many of her clients four to seven days a week and offering them her undivided attention as she provides companionship and assists with such tasks as grocery shopping and medical appointments. She also serves on the Senior Companion Advisory Council and sees herself as a community ambassador, exerting good will and persuading others to support the program. As a Volunteer Team Leader, she provides guidance to other volunteers, helping the Senior Companion project achieve an 85 percent volunteer retention rate.

Do you know a volunteer who exemplifies the difference that seniors can make in their communities?

Share their stories and the spirit of service.

Senior Corps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) are committed to recognizing and celebrating outstanding service by their volunteers. The Spirit of Service Awards pay tribute to the most outstanding volunteers in each of the Corporation's programs, which also include AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America.

The awards will be presented to the winners during special ceremonies at the 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service, June 22-24 in San Francisco.

Nominations are currently being sought. Nominees must exemplify the spirit of national service, demonstrate exceptional service or leadership, and serve as role models for others in their community.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Winners will be selected from each of the following categories:

- An RSVP volunteer;
- A Foster Grandparent; and
- A Senior Companion.

This competition is open to all current Senior Corps volunteers.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be made by Senior Corps project directors or sponsor agency staff members. Self-nominations also are permitted.

All nominations must include a narrative of 250 words or less in support of the nomination (see guidelines below). Nominations must also include:

- Nominee's name, address, telephone number, fax, e-mail address, and dates of service.
- Nominator's name and title, organization name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address.
- Type of Senior Corps program—RSVP, Foster Grandparent, or Senior Companion.

Incomplete nomination submissions will be disqualified.

There are three easy ways to submit a nomination:

1. Fill out an online nomination form at www.nationalservice.gov/spiritofservice
2. Send by e-mail to spiritofserviceawards@cns.gov
3. Fax to 202-606-3460

You may submit as many nominations as you like, but each nomination must be submitted separately. If you have questions, please call 202-606-6717. The nomination deadline is Monday, March 30, 2009 at 5p.m. Eastern time. Nominations received after this date may not be considered.

NARRATIVE GUIDELINES

The narrative should address how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of service by addressing the following questions (in 250 words or less for each):

1. Tell us about the person you are nominating. Where is this person serving currently? What are this person's service responsibilities? When did he or she start serving? What qualities set this person apart from other individuals who serve in your program?
2. Tell us about the leadership qualities of the person you are nominating. How has this person inspired others and encouraged others to serve? Has he or she taken on particular leadership roles in your organization or in the community that set them apart? If so, please describe these roles.

3. Provide some examples of tangible outcomes the person you are nominating has achieved. For instance, discuss problems solved, measurable changes (like test scores, truancy rates, changes in rates of infection, mentoring matches, etc.), dollars saved, effective leveraging of volunteers and resources, or number of people served. Please be as specific as possible and identify some examples of the impact the individual has made.
4. Tell us about the extraordinary efforts made by the person you are nominating. Has this person had to overcome any personal challenges? Has this person's service changed your programming, capacity for service delivery, or sustainability in any way? What makes this person's efforts stand out from others?

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of Senior Corps staff members at the Corporation and representatives of the Senior Corps service community. The committee will make their recommendations to the executive staff of the Corporation. Final selections will be determined by the executive staff of the Corporation. All decisions about award recipients are final.

If a nominee is selected, the nominee and nominator will be contacted by telephone. Award recipients will be invited to travel as a guest of the Corporation to San Francisco, CA, where they will be recognized during special ceremonies at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

Nominators will be notified of the status of their nominations once the selection process is completed. The list of all award recipients will be posted on the www.nationalservice.gov website. Information submitted becomes the property of the Corporation and will not be returned to the nominator.

Privacy Policy: You are advised that a nominee's name, as well as all submission material, may be used for news or publicity programs connected with the Corporation for National and Community Service. Contact information, however, will not be shared with anyone outside the Corporation, and will be shared only with individuals within the Corporation who have an official need to know the information. Finally, if a nominee or nominator does not want his or her name and/or narrative information used for purposes of news, publicity, and publications, please indicate this within your submission.

The Spirit of Service Awards are sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

